Dear Reader,

NEWSLETTER FOR SQUARE BOOKS CONSTANT READERS

A generous selection of the proven, prevailing, and promising literary offerings available at your favorite local bookstore, provided by its dedicated staff.

Spring/Summer 2017

EVENTS

April 10

Jami Attenberg
All Grown Up
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

April 11

Mary Ann Connell
An Unforseen Life
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

April 11

DebDiesen
Pout Pout Fish Far
From Home
Square Books, Jr. 5 p.m.

April 13

Holly Tucker
City of Light,
City of Poison
Off Square Books, 6 p.m.

April 27

Tricia Barr
Star Wars Visual Encyclopedia
Off Square Books 5 p.m.

May 2

Charles Eagles
Civil Rights,
Culture Wars
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

May 3

Brian Van Reet
Spoils
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

May 4

Peggy O’Neal Peden
Your Killin’ Heart
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

May 10

Lynn Faust
Fireflies, Glow-worms,
and Lightning Bugs
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

May 17

John T. Edge
The Potlikker Papers
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

May 18

Omar El Akkad
American War
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

May 20

The Mississippi Encyclopedia
City Hall Courtroom, 3:00 p.m.
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

June 12

Nick White
How to Survive a Summer
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

June 14

Maile Meloy
Do Not Become Alarmed
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

June 15

Taylor Ann Kidd
The Shark Club
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

June 28

Amy Young
A New Friend for Sparkle
Square Books, Jr. 5 p.m.

www.thackermountain.com

Thacker Mountain Radio is broadcast live from Off Square Books on FM 92.1 Thursdays at 6 p.m. and statewide Saturdays at 7 p.m. on Mississippi Public Radio.
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| April 14 | Michael Thompson, *The Actress*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| April 14 | Nathan Pieplow, *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern America*  
The Lyric Oxford, 6 p.m. |                               |       |
| April 20 | Julie Buntin, *Marlena*  
The Lyric Oxford, 6 p.m. |                               |       |
| April 20 | David Wiesner, *Fish Girl*  
Square Books, Jr. 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| May 8   | Richard Ford, *Between Them*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| May 10  | Curtis Wilkie & Tom Oliphant, *Road to Camelot*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| May 11  | Yvette Johnson, *The Song & the Silence*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| May 15  | Edan Lepucki, *Woman No. 17*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| May 23  | W. Bruce Cameron, *A Dog's Way Home*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| May 23  | Dorothea Benton, *Frank*  
*Same Beach Next Year*  
Off Square Books, NOON |                               |       |
| May 24  | Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich, *The Fact of a Body*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| May 25  | Beth Ann Fennelly, Julie Cantrell, & Susan Cushman, *Second Blooming*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| July 18 | Ace Atkins, *The Fallen*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |
| TBD    | Gin Phillips, *Fierce Kingdom*  
Off Square Books, 5 p.m. |                               |       |

Visit [www.squarebooks.com/event](http://www.squarebooks.com/event) for a full list of events.
THE ANSWERS
by Catherine Lacey
(Farrar, Straus & Giroux, $26.00; published 6/6)

Mary is a young woman living in New York City when a mysterious ailment causes her to seek treatment she can’t afford. In answering a bizarre Craigslist ad to serve as a job-specific female companion to Kurt—such as Anger Girlfriend, Sleeping Girlfriend, or, in the role Mary accepts, Emotional Girlfriend—The Answers poses unpredictable inquiries to its readers, and Catherine Lacey exceeds the high expectations set by her 2015 first novel, Nobody Is Ever Missing. Join us (TBA) in welcoming the 2017–18 John and Renee Grisham writer-in-residence for the event for The Answers and its author: Tupelo, Mississippi native Catherine Lacey. – RH

EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES
by Daniel Wallace
(St. Martin’s Press, $25.99; published 5/30)

Edsel Bronfman works as a junior executive shipping clerk for an importer of Korean flatware. He lives in a seedy neighborhood and spends his free time with his spirited mother. Things happen to other people, and Bronfman knows it. Until, that is, he gets a call from operator 61217 telling him that he’s won a free weekend at a beachfront condo in Destin, Florida. But there’s a catch: the offer is intended for a couple, and Bronfman has only seventy-nine days to find someone to take with him. The phone call jolts Bronfman into motion, initiating a series of truly extraordinary adventures as he sets out to find a companion for his weekend getaway.

DO NOT BECOME ALARMED
by Maile Meloy
(Riverhead, $27.00; published 6/6)

I’ve long been a fan of Maile Meloy. It’s been seven years since her last adult novel but this new book is worth the wait. Two couples take their four children ages six to eleven on a holiday cruise and all goes well until they take an ill-fated day trip on the coast of Panama where the children disappear and are later discovered to have been abducted by drug runners. It sounds harrowing and it is an intense read but it’s also a nuanced examination of family and what it means to be American, told from multiple points of view. The result is a remarkable experience that will have you flipping pages to find out what happens and yet you’ll also find that you want to slow down just to savor the writing. We’re very excited to be hosting Meloy for the first time at Square Books. – CM

MARLENA
by Julie Buntin
(Henry Holt & Co., $26.00; pub. 4/4)

A powerful debut novel that will haunt its readers. Buntin delivers an engrossing portrait of the interior lives of teenagers capturing all the angst and insecurity surrounding the bond between two young girls. Fifteen year old Cat moves to Silver Lake, Michigan following her parents’ divorce and is immediately drawn to her neighbor, Marlena, who is older, wilder, and seemingly freer - all things Cat wants to be. In the near future, Marlena will be found dead and Cat will never be the same though she goes on to be successful and live in New York. Told in flashbacks and in the present day, Cat reveals the events leading up to Marlena’s death as she tries to find out what really happened. – CM

BEFORE WE SLEEP
by Jeffrey Lent
(Bloomsbury USA, $28.00; published 5/2)

Set in a lovingly realized Vermont setting, tracking the changes that come with the turning of the seasons—and decades—and signaling the dawning of Katey’s freedom, Before We Sleep is a novel about family, about family secrets, and the love that holds families together. It is also about the Greatest Generation as it moves into the very different era of the 1960s, and the trauma of war that so profoundly weighed on both generations. It is Jeffrey Lent’s most accomplished novel.
FICTION

INFINITE SUMMER
by Edoardo Nesi
(Other Press, $27.95; published 7/11)

I love this novel so much! Nesi, the prolific, award-winning writer, translator, politician, and filmmaker, has recreated Tuscany in the 1970s, a time when business and creativity boomed. The story revolves around the visionary, hyper Ivo Barracciai, son of an artisan, his dream of building the most fabulous textile factory in the world, and the contractor and construction foreman who make it happen. Lots of rich and wonderful architectural and craftsman description, love and family scenarios, corruption, Italian genius and craziness. Very funny, but deeply affecting—evokes The Sopranos and the novels of Elena Ferrante. A don’t-miss. – LH

MRS. FLETCHER
by Tom Perrotta
(Scribner, $26.00; published 8/1)

A forty-six-year-old divorcee whose beloved only child has just left for college, Eve is struggling to adjust when one night her phone lights up with a text message. Sent from an anonymous number, the mysterious sender tells Eve, “U R my MILF!” Over the months that follow, that message comes to obsess her. Before long, Eve’s online porn fixations begin to spill over into real life, revealing new romantic possibilities that threaten to upend her quiet suburban existence. Meanwhile, only a few weeks into his freshman year, Eve’s son Brendan is floundering in a college environment that challenges his white-dude privilege and shames him for his outmoded, chauvinistic ideas of sex. Both mother and son find themselves enmeshed in morally fraught situations that come to a head on one fateful November night.

FIerce KINGdom
by Gin Phillips
(Viking, $25.00; published 7/11)

A mother and her four year old son spend the afternoon at the zoo. Over the course of the next few hours, their benign play place becomes a frightening jungle when they are trapped within when shooters take it over. An exploration into the depth and width of maternal bond, it is also a thrilling page turner that will give your heart a workout. – CFR

THE SHARK Club
by Ann Kidd Taylor
(Viking, $26.00; published 6/6)

A debut novel about love, loss, and sharks by the New York Times bestselling co-author of the memoir Traveling with Pomegranates. Set against the gorgeous backdrop of the Gulf of Mexico in a picturesque and quaint beach town, The Shark Club is a bittersweet story about the power of forgiveness, and the promise of true love.

THE SARAh Book
by Scott McClanahan
(Tyrant Books, $16.95; published 6/20)

The provocative writer of Crapalachia and Hill William treats us with The Sarah Book, his semi-autobiographical work about love and divorce in West Virginia. McClanahan’s brilliant prose explores the dark ways desperate people behave, without explaining or justifying the behavior. Implicit shame and regret, and a paradoxical love/hate for humanity—most people keep these secrets to themselves. Irreverent, unflinching, intense, and a brave adventure that tears deep. It’s a noble task, really. – SM

INFINITE SUMMER
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(Other Press, $27.95; published 7/11)

Edan Lepucki’s second novel, following California, features a young woman who, trying to find breathing space enough to write a memoir, hires a young nanny, “S,” or Esther, an artist, to live in the small guest hovel behind the house and take care of her toddler while also keeping an eye on her mute teenage son. A sometimes comical, psychologically complex and suspenseful story—a family noir—soon has you in its grip, pulling for these souls in the Los Angeles hills. – RH

THE SARAh Book
by Scott McClanahan
(Tyrant Books, $16.95; published 6/20)

The Glassman family believe they’ve found refuge from post 9-11 Manhattan at their new home in Rockaway, Queens—until 92-year-old murderer Rose appears to reclaim their beach house. A darkly funny work of fiction that exposes a city and a family at their most vulnerable.

WOMAN NO. 17
by Edan Lepucki
(Hogarth, $26.00; published 5/9)

Edan Lepucki’s second novel, following California, features a young woman who, trying to find breathing space enough to write a memoir, hires a young nanny, “S,” or Esther, an artist, to live in the small guest hovel behind the house and take care of her toddler while also keeping an eye on her mute teenage son. A sometimes comical, psychologically complex and suspenseful story—a family noir—soon has you in its grip, pulling for these souls in the Los Angeles hills. – RH

AUTHOR EVENT: MAY 15
Signed copies available
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Each month we will send a first edition signed or personally inscribed book by one of the many outstanding authors who come to Square Books, plus a bonus book at the end of the year.
For more information e-mail Slade at books@squarebooks.com
**FICTION**

**A DOG’S WAY HOME**
by W. Bruce Cameron
(Forge, $24.99; published 5/9)

A triumphant return to the tradition of Cameron’s beloved best-selling *A Dog’s Purpose*: a classic story of the human-animal bond from a dog’s point of view.

**A LIFE OF ADVENTURE AND DELIGHT**
by Akhil Sharma
(W.W. Norton, $24.95; published 7/11)

Akhil Sharma’s masterful stories focus on Indian protagonists at home and abroad and plunge the reader into the unpredictable workings of the human heart.

**NEW BOY**
by Tracy Chevalier
(Hogarth, $25.00; published 5/16)

Osei Kokote’s first day at his new elementary school should be fine, except for one thing: the school bully, Ian. Ian does not like new kids, especially ones who don’t recognize his authority. Thus begins Chevalier’s retelling of *Othello*, and if you thought the original was tragic, wait until you read this. Taking place over the course of one school day, this highly imaginative retelling is one you can’t put down. – *AP*

**WHITE FUR**
by Jardine Libaire
(Hogarth, $26.00; published 5/30)

"Laughter, joy, and loneliness and sex and sex and sex.‘ – "Shattered," *The Rolling Stones*. Elise Perez, a high school drop out, grew up in public housing. Jamey Hyde, a Yale student, is the scion of a famously wealthy family. Jardine Libaire teases the reader along, gradually unwinding the development of their relationship as they fumble along discovering each other and themselves, and surprising everyone. It is the 1980s and New York and they are young, and so there is lots of sex, but the innocence remains. Love is timeless. – *CFR*

**THE TALENTED RIBKINS**
by Ladee Hubbard
(Melville House, $25.99; published 8/8)

The *Talented Ribkins* weaves themes of race, class and politics into a wonderfully accomplished and engaging novel by a talented new author.

**SPOILS**
by Brian Van Reet
(Lee Boudreaux, $26.00)

Starting with one of the greatest first lines you will ever read, this high octane novel immediately hits high gear and never stops accelerating straight through to its explosive conclusion. The perverse, irrational world of warfare and the skewed morality of its instigators and participants is brought out forcefully in this story of three distinctly different people whose lives intersect during the Iraq conflict. Just as *The Things They Carried* became the definitive novel of the Vietnam war, so may *Spoils* take a similar place for the second Gulf War. – *BC*

**SAME BEACH, NEXT YEAR**
by Dorothea Benton Frank
(William Morrow, $27.99; published 5/16)

Dorothea Benton Frank returns to her magical Lowcountry of South Carolina in this bewitching story of marriage, love, family, and friendship that is infused with her warm and engaging earthy humor and generous heart.

**THE WOMEN IN THE CASTLE**
by Jessica Shattuck
(William Morrow, $26.99)

Set at the end of World War II in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined—an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel.

**CHEMISTRY**
by Weike Wang
(Knopf, $24.95; published 5/23)

A coming-of-age novel about a young female scientist who must recalibrate her life when her academic career goes off track; perfect for readers of *Lab Girl* and Celeste Ng’s *Everything I Never Told You*.

**TRAJECTORY**
by Richard Russo
(Knopf, $25.95; published 5/2)

Following the best-selling novel *Everybody’s Fool*, a new collection of short fiction that demonstrates that Richard Russo—winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Empire Falls*—is also skilled at short stories.
FICTION

THE LEAVERS
by Lisa Ko
(Algonquin, $25.95; published 5/2)
The immigrant experience is inherent to the history of almost all Americans, whether their ancestors arrived on the Mayflower, a jet or train or simply drove or walked across a border. Lisa Ko examines that shared phenomenon through the eyes of Peilan and Deming, a Chinese mother and son who are caught up in the machinations of an implacable system that can sunder families and destroy individual and cultural identities. Readers who examine their own family histories will easily be able to identify with the trials and tribulations the two have to endure as they seek a place for themselves in an alien world. – BC

THE CONFUSION
OF LANGUAGES
by Siobhan Fallon
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons, $26.00; published 6/27)
A taut and intimate debut novel about jealousy, the unpredictable path of friendship, and the secrets kept in a marriage, all set against the U.S. military community in the Middle East.

TIME’S A THIEF
by B.G. Firmani
(Doubleday, $26.95; published 5/2)
Eighties New York springs to gritty, vibrant life in this piercingly romantic and compulsively readable coming-of-age novel. A beautiful, sad, funny, altogether bewitching debut.

SALT HOUSES
by Hala Alyan
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $26.00; published 5/2)
Lyrical and heartbreaking, Salt Houses is a remarkable debut novel that challenges and humanizes an age-old conflict we might think we understand—one that asks us to confront that most devastating of all truths: you can’t go home again.

THE HALF-DROWNED KING
by Linnea Hartsuyker
(Harper, $27.99; published 8/1)
Hartsuyker is a masterful world builder and immerses the reader in the gritty world of Vikings within the first few pages. Action packed and full of intrigue, this novel is hard to put down. Fans of fantasy should not miss this novel. – ABM

ANCIENT TILLAGE
by Raduan Nassar
(New Directions, $14.95)
Thank you jesus for translators! Think what we’d miss if not for them. Ancient Tillage, first published in 1975, is such a novel. A young man leaves his close family, one that is tied firmly to farming and ruled by a loving but fire-and-brimstone-preaching father. After hapless adventures, the son returns to great celebration that turns tragic when his taboo love is revealed. Don’t miss this small but dense and very beautiful novel by a Brazilian master. – LH

BEARTOWN
by Fredrik Backman
From the New York Times bestselling author of A Man Called Ove, a poignant, winning novel about a forgotten town on its last legs, a broken community fractured by scandal, and the amateur hockey team that might just change everything.

MEN WITHOUT WOMEN
by Haruki Murakami
(Knopf, $25.95; published 5/9)
Across seven tales, here are vanishing cats and smoky bars, lonely hearts and mysterious women, baseball and the Beatles, woven together to tell stories that speak to us all.

SPOONBENDERS
by Daryl Gregory
(Knopf, $27.95; published 6/27)
A generation-spanning family of psychics—both blessed and burdened by their abilities—must use their powers to save themselves from the CIA, the local mafia, and a skeptic hell-bent on discrediting them in this hilarious, tender, magical novel about the invisible forces that bind us.

THE ALMOST SISTERS
by Joshilyn Jackson
(William Morrow, $26.99; published 7/11)
With empathy, grace, humor, and piercing insight, the author of Gods in Alabama pens a powerful, emotionally resonant novel of the South that confronts the truth about privilege, family, and the distinctions between perception and reality—the stories we tell ourselves about our origins and who we really are.
Mississippi sheriff Quinn Colson had to admit he admired the bank robbers. A new bank was hit almost every week, and the robbers rushed in and out with such skill and precision it reminded him of raids he’d led back in Afghanistan and Iraq when he was an Army Ranger. In fact, it reminded him so much of the techniques in the Ranger Handbook that he couldn’t help wondering if the outlaws were former Rangers themselves. And that was definitely going to be a problem. If he stood any chance of catching them, he was going to need the help of old allies, new enemies, and a lot of luck. The enemies, he had plenty of. It was the allies and the luck that were going to be in woefully short supply.

Camino Island
by John Grisham
(Doubleday, $28.95; published 6/6)

Many will be pleased to know that John Grisham has written one of his "extra" books, such as Ford County, The Painted House, and Calico Joe—somewhat outside the pattern of his legal thrillers. On June 5 we will have signed copies of Camino Island, which opens with a Princeton library heist of valuable manuscripts, a charismatic bookstore owner (no, this resembles no one we know) whose sideline of antiquarian books might have a shady side, and a young woman who is a struggling writer and is hired by an insurance firm to play dumb and find facts. The recipe of a rollicking plot with interesting characters and sprinkled with literary treats makes for Grisham at his best. Visit www.squarebooks.com for information about a John Grisham signing! – RH

The Fallen
by Ace Atkins
(G.P. Putnam's Sons, $27.00; published 7/18)

Mississippi sheriff Quinn Colson had to admit he admired the bank robbers. A new bank was hit almost every week, and the robbers rushed in and out with such skill and precision it reminded him of raids he’d led back in Afghanistan and Iraq when he was an Army Ranger. In fact, it reminded him so much of the techniques in the Ranger Handbook that he couldn’t help wondering if the outlaws were former Rangers themselves. And that was definitely going to be a problem. If he stood any chance of catching them, he was going to need the help of old allies, new enemies, and a lot of luck. The enemies, he had plenty of. It was the allies and the luck that were going to be in woefully short supply.

Robert B. Parker's Little White Lies
by Ace Atkins
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons, $27.00; published 5/2)

Boston P.I. Spenser and his right hand, Hawk, follow a con man’s trail of smoke and mirrors in the latest entry of the iconic crime series. After conning everyone from the cable news shows to the local cops, it looks like the grifter’s latest double-cross may be his last.

Into the Water
by Paula Hawkins
(Riverhead, $28.00; published 5/2)

The #1 New York Times best-selling author of Girl on a Train Paula Hawkins returns with Into the Water, her addictive new novel of psychological suspense about the slipperiness of the truth and a family drowning in secrets.

Since We Fell
by Dennis Lehane
(Ecco, $27.99; published 5/16)

Since We Fell follows Rachel Childs, a woman on the brink, who worries that her marriage is not what it seems. It’s a heartbreaking, suspenseful, romantic novel of profound psychological insight.

Your Killin’ Heart
by Peggy O’Neal Peden
(Minotaur, $25.99; published 5/2)

With Your Killin’ Heart, Peggy O’Neal Peden has given us a witty debut full of Nashville charm and generous heart.

Testimony
by Scott Turow
(Grand Central Publishing, $28.00; published 5/16)

Scott Turow returns with a legal thriller about an American prosecutor’s investigation into a refugee camp’s mystifying disappearance during the Bosnian War.
This tells the story of the fate that shadowed the love of Beren and Lúthien: Beren was a mortal man, but Lúthien was an immortal elf. Her father, a great elvish lord, in deep opposition to Beren, imposed on him an impossible task that he must perform before he might wed Lúthien. This is the kernel of the legend; and it leads to the supremely heroic attempt of Beren and Lúthien to rob the greatest of all evil beings, Melkor, called Morgoth, the Black Enemy, of a Silmaril.

Imagine if John Carpenter's *The Thing* and *Fallout* had a baby, then this novel is what you'd get. Rachel and Wick are scavengers of old world tech in a ruined city, when Rachel stumbles upon something that redefines their existence. But what is Borne? And what is its relationship to Mord, a giant genetically engineered flying bear that may be a god? This bizarre novel will keep you enthralled as you try to answer these questions, and you may not like what you find. – AP

On January 2, 1942, Japanese troops marched into the strategic port of Manila unopposed by U.S. forces commanded by General Douglas MacArthur. Thousands of soldiers surrendered and sent on the notorious 80 mile Bataan Death March to a prison camp. But thousands of other Filipinos and Americans refused to surrender and hid in the Luzon hills above Bataan and Manila. This is the story of three of them, and how they successfully foiled the Japanese for more than two years.

*The Trial of Adolf Hitler* tells the true story of the monumental criminal proceeding that followed when Hitler and nine other suspects were charged with high treason. By its end, Hitler would transform the fiasco of the beer hall putsch into a stunning victory for the fledgling Nazi Party. It was this trial that thrust Hitler into the limelight, provided him with an unprecedented stage for his demagoguery, and set him on his improbable path to power.

A true family saga about three brothers during World War II who are separated by the war but end up taking part in its most dramatic moments, with the two eldest in a mad race to save the youngest.

The Battle of Saipan lasted twenty-five hellish days in the summer of 1944, and the stakes couldn’t have been higher. If Japan lost possession of the island, all hope for victory would be lost. For the Americans, the island was the only obstacle between them and the Japanese mainland. The outcome of the war in the Pacific was in the balance. *Their Backs Against the Sea* fuses fresh interviews, oral histories, and unpublished accounts into a fast-paced narrative of the Battle of Saipan.
HISTORY

THE ROAD TO CAMELOT
by Thomas Oliphant & Curtis Wilkie
(Simon & Schuster, $28.00; published 5/9)

Johnny, we hardly knew ye. That is so
true of John Kennedy, who has become
more myth than substance in many
cases, which is a shame because the reality is so much
more interesting. In a journalistic and historical tour
de force the authors delineate the intensity, focus and
highly structured organization that implemented the
tactics and strategy that brought him the 1960
Presidential nomination. It was a campaign that
forever changed American politics and its relevance
carries through to the present. Don’t miss a great event
with Mississippi writer emeritus, Curtis Wilkie, and his
Boston Globe partner-in-ink, Tom Oliphant. – BC

THE BEST LAND
UNDER HEAVEN
by Michael Wallis
(Liveright, $27.95; published 6/6)

Cutting through 160 years of mythmak-
ing, best-selling historian Michael Wallis
presents the ultimate cautionary tale of
America’s westward expansion and the
legendary Donner Party. A historically invaluable
account of the darkest side of Manifest Destiny, The
Best Land Under Heaven offers a brilliant, revisionist
examination of one of America’s most calamitous and
sensationalized catastrophes.

AMERICAN ECLIPSE
by David Baron
(Liveright, $27.95; published 6/6)

A magnificent portrayal of America’s
dawn as a scientific power, American
Eclipse depicts a young nation that
looked to the skies to reveal its towering
ambition and expose its latent genius.
This epic story of a nineteenth-century celestial drama
will enthral readers, as the first coast-to-coast total
solar eclipse in 99 years plunges America into darkness.

AUTUMN OF THE
BLACK SNAKE
by William Hogeland
(Farrar, Straus & Giroux, $28.00; published 5/16)

The forgotten story of how the U.S. Army
was created to fight a crucial Indian war
and how greed, honor, political beliefs,
and vivid personalities converged on the
killing fields of the Ohio Valley, where the U.S. Army’s
first victory opened the way to western settlement and
established the precedent that the new nation would
possess a powerful military to reckon with.

CHURCHILL AND ORWELL
by Thomas E. Ricks
(Penguin, $28.00; published 5/23)

Winston Churchill and George Orwell
never met but the two shared a role as
bastions of defense of individual liberty
during the tumultuous middle decades
of the 20th century. Both nearly died
during the 1930s but survived to go through the cauldron of World War II and its aftermath to become the
spokespersons against tyranny, whether the source was
from the right or left. Ricks artfully details how the two
came to take their stance and delineates the similarities
in their lives that led them to become icons of the
cause of freedom. – BC

A FLAG WORTH DYING FOR
by Tim Marshall
(Scribner, $26.00; published 7/4)

Combining keen analysis of current
events with world history, Tim Marshall, author of best-seller Prisoners of Geogra-
phy, explains flags and their symbols—
how their power is used to unite and
divide populations and intimidate enemies.

A HISTORY OF THE UNITED
STATES IN FIVE CRASHES
by Scott Nations
(William Morrow, $28.99; published 6/13)

In this absorbing and accessible blend of
economic and cultural history, a financial executive and CNBC contributor examines the five most significant stock
market crashes in the United States over the past cen-
tury, revealing how they have defined the nation today.

ANATOMY OF TERROR
by Ali Soufan
(W.W. Norton & Co., $27.95; published 5/2)

In early 2011, the heart of the Muslim
world roiled in protest, consumed with
the upheaval of the Arab Spring. The
governments of Tunisia and Egypt had
already fallen; those of Libya and Ye-
men would soon follow. Watching the chaos from his
hideout in Pakistan, Osama bin Laden saw a historic
opportunity: “the next stage,” he declared, “will be the
reinstating of the rule of the caliphate.” Within weeks,
bin Laden was dead. Commentators around the world
began to prophesy al-Qaeda’s imminent demise. But six
years later, the reality is the reverse. The group’s affil-
iates have swollen, and the Islamic State—al-Qaeda’s
most brutal spinoff to date—proclaims itself the reborn
caliphate bin Laden foretold in his final weeks.
American Fire re-creates the anguished five-month arson spree that left a rural Virginia county lit up in flames and evokes a mesmerizing microcosm of rural America—a land half gutted before the fires even began.
BETWEEN THEM
by Richard Ford
(Ecco, $25.99; published 5/2)

AUTHOR EVENT: MAY 8
Signed copies available

Thirty years after Richard Ford’s "My Mother, a Memory" appeared in Harper's (its only publication in the U.S.), the prize-winning author has written a companion piece, "Gone: Remembering My Father," and combined the two into this new book, Between Them. Here we see these two people, and young Richard with them, come to life. "To write a memoir," Ford says, "and to consider the importance of another human being is to try to credit what otherwise might go unremarked—partly by acknowledging that mysteries lie within us all, and by identifying within those mysteries, virtues." It is not quite right to compare Between Them to the remarkable One Writer's Beginnings by Ford’s late friend and fellow Mississipian, Eudora Welty, as they are two fairly different kinds of books, with different motivations. But they share much in awareness, wisdom, candor, and tenderness, and in their composition, the very best writing a reader might hope for. – RH

PRIESTDADDY
by Patricia Lockwood
(Riverhead, $27.00; published 5/2)

Memoir is a difficult form. Besides the necessary writing skills, one must be honest with the reader and with oneself. We might be endlessly fascinating to ourselves, but the ability to distinguish what is interesting to another, baring the soul without boring, is a higher act. Patricia Lockwood dances on this tightrope with grace and aplomb, sharing the story of her life, and her family’s, as a daughter of a Catholic priest (yes, it can happen). Recounting her unconventional childhood and her experience returning to her parent’s home to live as an adult, Ms. Lockwood reminds the reader that parents are people too. – CFR

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME
by Sherman Alexie
(Little, Brown & Co., $28.00; published 6/13)

When his mother passed away at the age of 78, Sherman Alexie responded the only way he knew how: he wrote. In this resulting memoir, Alexie shares raw, angry, funny, profane, tender memories of a childhood few can imagine—growing up dirt-poor on an Indian reservation, one of four children raised by alcoholic parents.

WEDDING TOASTS I’LL NEVER GIVE
by Ada Calhoun
(W.W. Norton & Co., $24.95; published 5/16)

Both realistic and openhearted, Wedding Toasts I’ ll Never Give offers a refreshing new way to think about marriage as a brave, tough, creative decision to stay with another person for the rest of your life. "What a burden," Calhoun calls marriage, “and what a gift.”

JANE AUSTEN, THE SECRET RADICAL
by Helena Kelly
(Knopf, $27.95; published 5/2)

A brilliant, illuminating reassessment of the life and work of Jane Austen that shows us how she intended her books to be read, revealing, as well, how subversive and daring—how truly radical—a writer she was.

MOCKINGBIRD SONGS
by Wayne Flynt
(Harper, $25.99; published 5/2)

A collection of letters between Harper Lee and one of her closest friends that reveals the famously private writer as never before.

OPTION B
by Sheryl Sandberg & Adam Grant
(Knopf, $25.95; published 4/24)

From Facebook’s COO and the #1 New York Times best-selling authors of Lean In and Originals: a powerful and practical book about building resilience and moving forward after life’s inevitable setbacks.

ON IMAGINATION
by Mary Ruefle
(Sarabande Books, $9.95; published 7/25)

From religion to poetry to museum exhibitions, an inquiry into imagination’s manifestations by acclaimed poet Mary Ruefle.
LITERARY NON-FICTION

**AN UNFORESEEN LIFE**
by Mary Ann Connell
(Nautilus, $24.95)

Signed copies available

I was tempted to drag out that old cliche— _steel magnolia_—regarding Mary Ann, but magnolia blossoms shatter and fade quickly. As this memoir attests, Mary Ann has not. From her personal tragedies, rich family life, recognition of the unfairness of the Greek system, yearning to experience life in other places, adjustment to being wife of a Delta farmer, her time as a law student at UM and Harvard (where Barack Obama was a classmate), her tenure as University of Mississippi attorney standing up to the KKK and later, powerful alumni over NCAA violations, to her counsel in banning the Confederate flag on campus, Mary Ann has always sought to do the right thing, and to grow. She’s a gracious lady, but more importantly, an exemplary, shatter-proof woman with a great sense of humor who loves her family, Ole Miss, and a good martini. – *LH*

**LOVE AND TROUBLE**
by Claire Dederer
(Knopf, $25.95; published 5/9)

I think we can all use a good read about trouble of Dederer’s kind. From the author of the best-selling _Poser: My Life in Twenty-Three Yoga Poses_ comes this funny collection of essays about middle-aged momhood, marriage, masturbation, men and quite a few other topics that you aren’t likely to see discussed with such honesty and humor. A great book club pick or Mother’s Day gift for the edgy and unflappable. – *LH*

**READING WITH PATRICK**
by Michelle Kuo
(Random House, $28.00; published 7/11)

A stirring memoir about the life-changing friendship between an idealistic young teacher and her gifted student, jailed for murder in the Mississippi Delta.

**HUNGER**
by Roxane Gay
(Harper, $25.99; published 6/13)

From the best-selling author of _Bad Feminist_ : a searingly honest memoir of food, weight, self-image, and learning how to feed your hunger while taking care of yourself.

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**THE FACT OF A BODY**
by Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich
(Flatiron, $26.99; published 5/16)

**AUTHOR EVENT: MAY 24**
Signed copies available

Before Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich begins a summer job at a law firm in Louisiana, working on the retrial defense of death-row convicted murderer and child molester Ricky Langley, she thinks her position is clear. The child of two lawyers, she is staunchly anti-death penalty. But the moment Ricky’s face flashes on the screen as she reviews old tapes, the moment she hears him speak of his crimes, she is overcome with the feeling of wanting him to die. Shocked by her reaction, she digs deeper and deeper into the case, realizing that despite their vastly different circumstances, something in his story is unsettlingly, uncannily familiar.

**MY SOUL LOOKS BACK**
by Jessica B. Harris
(Scribner, $25.00; published 5/9)

A stirring memoir about the life-changing friendship between an idealistic young teacher and her gifted student, jailed for murder in the Mississippi Delta.

**THE MIGHTY FRANKS**
by Michael Frank
(Farrar, Straus & Giroux, $26.00; published 5/16)

A fascinating memoir about the author’s aunt and uncle, the glamorous and hugely successful Hollywood screenwriters Harriet Frank and Irving Ravetch, and the rest of his quirky family, all living in a sort of compound in Laurel Canyon. Much of the book is funny, but there’s a focus on the dark turn his beloved aunt takes, becoming a monster who torments the family. Lots of great Hollywood and movie trivia, including the fact that the aunt and uncle wrote the scripts for several Faulkner novels. – *LH*

**STING LIKE A BEE**
by Leigh Montville
(Doubleday, $30.00; published 5/16)

An insightful portrait of Muhammed Ali from the best-selling author of _At the Altar of Speed and The Big Bam_. It centers on the cultural and political implications of Ali’s refusal of service in the military—and the key moments in a life that was as high profile and transformative as any in the twentieth century.
As the director of the Southern Foodways Association, John T. Edge has long sought to understand the South, its history, and people, through its food, then and now. What people choose to eat, eat when they have no choice, eat where and with whom, is life sustaining, literally and figuratively. In the South, with its rich agricultural environment and mix of complex, fascinating, and sometimes troubled people, food can tell a story. Going back sixty years, John T. has in his prose, sussed out these stories and by writing it down, is helping to shape a better future. – CFR

Mike Mills and Amy Mills, the dynamic father-daughter duo behind the famous 17th Street Barbecue in Illinois are two of the most influential people in barbecue. Praise the Lard dispenses all the secrets of the family’s lifetime of worshipping at the temple of barbecue.

A delicious love letter to the Gulf Coast’s vibrant food culture, by Jimmy Buffett’s sister and owner of Lulu’s—a destination restaurant located in Alabama and Florida.

A beloved culinary historian’s short takes on six famous women through the lens of food and cooking—what they ate, and how their attitudes toward food offer surprising new insights into their lives.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar explores his 50-year friendship with Coach John Wooden.

Collected here are entertaining, inspiring, and philosophical thoughts about the pleasures, power, and freedom of the bicycle—one of man’s perfect inventions.

The story of baseball’s most legendary “Iron Men,” Cal Ripken Jr. and Lou Gehrig, who each achieved the coveted record of most consecutive games played.
**SPORTS**

The companion book to the groundbreaking PBS and BBC documentary series celebrating the pioneers and artists of American roots music.

**AMERICAN EPIC**
by Bernard MacMahon & Allison McGourty
(Touchstone, $29.99; pub. 5/2)

**MUSIC**

The definitive oral history of Bob Marley by one of the world’s foremost reggae scholars.

**SO MUCH THINGS TO SAY**
by Roger Steffens
(W.W. Norton, $29.95; pub. 7/11)

The essential playlist of great writing about the music that rocked America, from rockabilly and doo-wop to punk and hip-hop.

**SHAKE IT UP**
ed. by Jonathan Lethem & Kevin Dettmar
(Library of America, $40.00; pub. 5/23)

**POETRY**

Ann Powers explores race and sexuality in American popular music.

**GOOD BOOTY**
by Ann Powers
(Dey Street, $26.99; pub. 8/15)

A biography of Otis Redding, the artist many call the heart of American soul music. We know his music, yet we know very little about his life, which ended tragically at the age of 26, at the height of his career. Gould’s portrait of Redding is both a remarkable look at a long-misunderstood artist and a fascinating exploration of race and music in America in the 1960s.

**OTIS REDDING**
by Jonathan Gould
(Crown Archetype, $30.00; pub. 5/16)

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**DANDY LION**
by Shantrelle P. Lewis
(Aperture, $35.00; pub. 5/30)

Dandy Lion presents and celebrates the black dandy movement, and its designers and tailors, in photographs and stories from all over the world.

**YOUNG LEONARDO**
by Jean-Pierre Isbouts & Christopher Heath Brown
(Thomas Dunne, $26.99; pub. 5/23)

From the New York Times Magazine photography critic and award-winning author of Open City, an innovative photographic project that explores how we see the world.

**BLIND SPOT**
by Teju Cole
(Random House, $40.00; pub. 6/13)

From the New York Times Magazine photography critic and award-winning author of Open City, an innovative photographic project that explores how we see the world.

**SARGENT’S WOMEN**
by Donna M. Lucey
(W.W. Norton, $29.95; pub. 8/22)

The companion book to the groundbreaking PBS and BBC documentary series celebrating the pioneers and artists of American roots music.

**ELECTION EVE**
by William Eggleston
(Steidl, $65.00; pub. 6/27)

Election Eve contains images made in October 1976 during Eggleston’s pilgrimage from Memphis to the small town of Plains, Georgia, the home of Jimmy Carter, who in November, 1976 was elected 39th President of the United States.

**HOW ART CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY**
by Bridget Watson Payne
(Chronicle, $12.95; pub. 5/2)

This little guide makes it possible for anyone to fall in love with art.

**FAST**
by Jorie Graham
(Ecco, $25.99; published 5/2)

In her first new collection in five years—her most exhilarating, personal, and formally inventive to date—Graham explores the limits of the human and the uneasy seductions of the post-human.

**SCRIBBLED IN THE DARK**
by Charles Simic
(Ecco, $22.99; published 6/13)

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning former U.S. Poet Laureate, a collection of elegiac, irreverent, lyrical new poems.

**RECKLESS DAUGHTER**
by David Yaffe
(Sarah Crichton, $28.00; pub. 8/29)

An intimate new biography of Joni Mitchell, one of the most beloved musicians of the twentieth century.

**GOOD BOOTY**
by Ann Powers
(Dey Street, $26.99; pub. 8/15)

**OTIS REDDING**
by Jonathan Gould
(Crown Archetype, $30.00; pub. 5/16)

**QUEEN OF BEBOP**
by Elaine M. Hayes
(Ecco, $27.99; pub. 7/4)

Queen of Bebop brilliantly chronicles the life of jazz singer Sarah Vaughan, one of the most influential and innovative musicians of the twentieth century and a pioneer of women’s and civil rights.

**AMERICAN EPIC**
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The essential playlist of great writing about the music that rocked America, from rockabilly and doo-wop to punk and hip-hop.

**IN THEIR LIVES**
by Andrew Blauner
(Blue Rider, $23.00; pub. 5/23)

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THE RADIUM GIRLS
by Kate Moore
(Sourcebooks, $26.99; pub. 5/2)
The incredible true story of the young women exposed to the “wonder” substance of radium and their struggle for justice.

CAESAR’S LAST BREATH
by Sam Kean
(Little, Brown, $28.00; pub. 7/18)
The fascinating science and history of the air we breathe from New York Times best-selling author Sam Kean.

ASTROPHYSICS FOR PEOPLE IN A HURRY
by Neil deGrasse Tyson
(W.W. Norton, $18.95; pub. 5/2)
The essential universe, from our most celebrated and beloved astrophysicist.

WOOLLY
by Ben Mezrich
(Atria, $26.00; pub. 7/4)
Science fiction comes true in this Jurassic Park-like story of the genetic recreation of the extinct Woolly Mammoth.

THE EVOLUTION OF BEAUTY
by Richard O. Prum
(Doubleday, $30.00; pub. 5/9)
A major reimagining of how evolutionary forces work, revealing how mating preferences—what Darwin termed “the taste for the beautiful”—create the extraordinary range of ornament in the animal world.

THE SONGS OF TREES
by David George Haskell
(Viking, $28.00; pub. 4/4)
Haskell repeatedly visits a dozen trees around the world, exploring the trees’ connections with webs of fungi, bacterial communities, cooperative and destructive animals, and other plants. Every living being is not only sustained by biological connections, but is made from these relationships. Haskell shows that this networked view of life enriches our understanding of biology, human nature, and ethics.

THE PHYSICS OF EVERYDAY THINGS
by James Kakalios
(Crown, $26.00; pub. 5/16)
James Kakalios reveals the astonishing science behind the seemingly basic things that keep our daily lives running, from our coffee-makers and digital “clouds” to X-ray machines and electric vehicles.

BUGGED
by David MacNeal
(St. Martin’s, $25.99; pub. 7/4)
A witty scientific journey to find out why insects are a hidden force as powerful as gravity and as necessary to life as water.

MOZART’S STARLING
by Lyanda Lynn Haupt
(Little, Brown, $27.00; pub. 4/4)
A charming story of Mozart and his pet starling, along with a natural history of the bird.

THE TREES OF NORTH AMERICA
by David Sibley
(Abbeville, $49.95; pub. 5/9)
A rediscovered landmark of American forestry from the New York Botanical Garden.

THEFT BY FINDING
by David Sedaris
(Little, Brown, $28.00; pub. 5/30)
Now, for the first time, Sedaris shares his private diary with the world. Written with a sharp eye and ear for the bizarre, the beautiful, and the uncomfortable, and with a generosity of spirit, Theft By Finding proves that Sedaris is one of our great modern observers.

WE ARE NEVER MEETING IN REAL LIFE
by Samantha Irby
(Vintage, $15.95; pub. 5/30)
A smart, edgy, hilarious, and unabashedly raunchy collection of essays about navigating new relationships, growing older, and jobs that get in the way of one’s television habit.

GARDENING IN THE SOUTH
by Mark Weathington
(Timber, $24.95; pub. 5/3)
Gardening in the South is packed with plant picks, design advice, and growing information that make it easier than ever to grow a beautiful Southern garden.
Picture Books

**THE POUT-POUT FISH, FAR, FAR FROM HOME**
*by Deborah Diesen*
(FSG, $16.99; ages 2-6)
Signed copies available

In this original hardcover picture book, *New York Times* bestselling Mr. Fish goes on his very first vacation but forgets his favorite toy.

**MORRIS MOLE**
*by Dan Yaccarino*
(HarperCollins, $17.99; ages 4-8)

Welcome to the world of Morris Mole. It is full and predictable, but could there be more? Morris is the youngest and a little bit different, but when there is a food shortage, Morris has an idea that could change everything. A wonderful story vividly brought to life with Yaccarino’s bold, colorful illustrations. – **KN**

**LIFE**
*by Cynthia Rylant & Brendan Wenzel*
(Beach Lane, $17.99; ages 3 & up)

Beloved author Cynthia Rylant tells us that everything begins small for all animals. Life isn’t easy, but living creatures revel in the sun and rain and anticipation of the new day. You may need two copies of this beautiful, affirming book—one to keep and one to share. A grace-filled story. – **LP**

**BLUE SKY WHITE STARS**
*by Sarvinder Naberhaus and Kadir Nelson*
(Dial, $17.99; ages 4-8)

Celebrating this unique country of ours, Naberhaus’ descriptive words and Nelson’s vibrant illustrations create a stunning book of beauty, gratitude and hope to be embraced and enjoyed by readers of all ages. – **KN**

**DRAGONS LOVE TACOS 2**
*by Adam Rubin & Daniel Salmieri*
(Dial, $18.99; ages 3-5)

Strap on your reflux capacitor and stock up your bookshelves, because tacos have been outlawed across the land and the dragons’ time machine is a little wonky. Rubin and Salmieri have offered up more tasty silliness than one kid alone could ever stomach. – **JM**

**HOME IN THE RAIN**
*by Bob Graham*
(Candlewick, $16.99; ages 3-7)

During a moment tucked into a rainy drive, soon-to-be big sister Francie and her mother talk about baby names. A trip, a stop, and a special conversation have Francie dancing with joy. What sweet name could she add to her foggy window family? – **LP**

**BLUE ETHEL**
*by Jennifer Black Reinhardt*
(FSG, $17.99; ages 4-6)

Ethel is a cat who is very good at being Ethel until she turns blue. A warm, funny tale of coping, friendship and embracing possibilities. Ethel will capture your heart, even if you’re not a cat lover. Truly charming. – **KN**

**THE CASE OF THE STINKY STENCH**
*by Josh Funk and Brendan Kearney*
(Sterling, $16.95; ages 5-8)

You might have to plug your nose too! Great fun to read aloud, and for bedtime viewing as well. – **JM**

**CHARLIE’S BOAT**
*by Kit Chase*
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons, $16.99; ages 3-5)

Charlie doesn’t get much pleasure from fishing or building a boat until Oliver and Lulu come to his rescue. The three friends take on a project that requires all their skills, and no one is left out. A sweet story for the little one who needs a bit of affirmation. – **LP**

**MUD BOOK**
*by John Cage & Lois Long*
(Princeton Architectural Press, $14.95; ages 3-5)

Very eco-friendly and fun activities that demonstrate new ways of looking at dirt and mud. Hands not included. – **JM**
**Picture Books**

**George Shrinks**  
by William Joyce  
(Atheneum, $17.99; ages 4-8)

A stunning visual adventure of a little boy who wakes up to a whole new world where the ordinary becomes extraordinary. Fans, as well as those new to Joyce, will rejoice in this enchanting story. This book is one of four exciting reissues of Joyce's acclaimed books. – **KN**

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Email books@squarebooks.com for information about **Junior's Dozen**, a curated book selection unique to your child's reading level.

**Middle Grade**

**Orphan Island**  
by Laurel Snyder  
(Walden Pond Press, $16.99; ages 8-12)

On an island where nine children reside, with the oldest child leaving every year and a new one taking their place, Jinny loses her best friend Deen and becomes the new Elder in one day, taking charge of the younger children and preparing them for her eventual departure. Her emotional journey is incredibly poignant and sometimes painfully real as Jinny learns that change is inevitable and growing up is an uncontrollable process. **Orphan Island** is a novel that will hold close to my heart for a long time. – **ST**

**York: The Shadow Cipher**  
by Laura Ruby  
(Walden Pond Press, $17.99; ages 8-12)

A fantastic mystery about an alternate Manhattan, eccentric architects, and a cipher that could save the whole city. Unusual twins Tess and Theo and their friend Jaime Cruz are facing eviction from their historical building by an evil real estate developer determined to tear down every building built by the famous and mysterious Morningstarr architects (Tess and Theo’s namesakes). The twins and Jaime team up to solve the Morningstarr’s citywide scavenger hunt to find their lost treasure and save their building. Along the way, they learn as much about history as they do about themselves. – **ST**

**The Trials of Apollo Book Two**  
by Rick Riordan  
(Disney-Hyperion, $19.99; ages 10-14)

Follow former god Apollo (now mortal teen Lester) as he teams up with familiar and new friends alike to find the oracle and restore his godhood. Facing the second member of Triumvirate, an evil group of Roman emperors, Apollo is challenged like never before in this hair-raising and heart-stopping adventure. – **ST**

**Rise of the Isle of the Lost**  
by Melissa de la Cruz  
(Disney-Hyperion, $17.99; ages 9-12)

The thrilling, perilous race to the trident pits old friends—and current enemies—against each other with the future of Auradon on the line. Both teams might like to make waves, but only one will come out on top of this one.

**Theodore Boone**  
Set of Six  
Signed First Editions  
John Grisham  
Penguin, $165.00

**Real Friends**  
by Shannon Hale  
(First Second, $12.99; ages 8-12)

Shannon is facing problems in school with her friends. What will she do? Read to find out! This book is super-good and I really felt like I was in the book. I wanted to help the friends so much. This book’s age range is about 7-16 and very enjoyable! – **ST**
FLAME IN THE MIST
by Renée Ahdieh
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons, $17.99; ages 12+)

If you liked The Wrath and the Dawn, you will LOVE this Mulan-inspired story set in Feudal Japan. Mariko is a fiercely intelligent and determined protagonist, the romance is charming, and the intricacy of the plot at the heart of the book is fantastic. Flame in the Mist is an action-packed, thought provoking tale of revenge, loyalty, and honor. – ST

WORDS IN DEEP BLUE
by Cath Crowley
(Knopf, $17.99; ages 14+)

Words in Deep Blue, with its universal messages about love, loss, and acceptance, is for lovers of words, literature, and letters. A must-read for anyone who has found solace in the written word. – ST

WE WERE LIARS
by E. Lockhart
(Delacorte, $18.99; ages 12+)

Privileged teen Cadence doesn’t remember what happened last summer, and in this tangled and twisted novel, she’ll have to figure out who the real liar is. We Were Liars is easily one of the best young adult mysteries of all time, and this gorgeous deluxe edition is perfect for both fans of the original and anyone who hasn’t read it yet. – ST

SPILL ZONE
by Scott Westerfeld & Alex Puvillard
(First Second, $22.99; ages 15-18)

Tough-as-nails Addison will do anything to provide for her little sister Lexa—that includes going in the Spill Zone, aka the most dangerous place on Earth. After an unnatural disaster hits her city, killing her parents and causing her sister to become mute, Addison survives by selling pictures of the Spill Zone, despite the danger it puts her in. Spill Zone is the cool, creepy, and awesome story of how Addison breaks all her safety rules for a million dollar payoff—and how the Spill Zone might keep her forever. – ST

THE LAST MAGICIAN
by Lisa Maxwell
(Simon Pulse, $18.99; ages 14+)

Esta, a clever thief with the ability to manipulate time, steals magical items from the past to create a future where magic isn’t extinct. Fighting against the Order, a tyrannical group that traps magic users within New York City, her ultimate mission is to steal the Book, an ancient tome that could save magic, previously lost forever by The Magician, a figure shrouded in mystery. Travelling back to 1902, Esta is thrust into a world of rival gangs and magicians, where the past, present, and future are thrown into question. Esta will need all her wits and skills to save the book and foil the enemies, if she can figure out who the real enemy is. Fans of The Diviners and Six of Crows will not be disappointed in this lush and brilliant novel. – ST

ONCE AND FOR ALL
by Sarah Dessen
(Viking, $19.99; ages 12+)

As the daughter of a successful wedding planner, Louna’s approach to love is cynical to say the least. Enter Ambrose, whose careless approach to life and love clashes with everything Louna stands for. Annoyed by Ambrose’s string of girlfriends, Louna and Ambrose make a bet to switch dating styles for the rest of the summer. Hilarity, romance, and tragedy ensue as Louna and Ambrose navigate their growing feelings for each other. Dessen seamlessly combines currents events with the rom-com formula to write a story that is touching and genuine. – ST

NOW I RISE
by Kiersten White
(Delacorte, $18.99; ages 12+)

The sequel to And I Darken, Now I Rise is just as beautifully complicated and twisted as its predecessor. Separated for the first time, siblings Lada and Radu Dracul face nearly insurmountable challenges, made worse by their falling-out. Lada, desperate to rule Wallachia, fights against convention, self-doubt, and her lingering feelings for Mehmed as she destroys anyone who crosses her path. Meanwhile, Radu is sent by Mehmed as a spy in Constantinople. Torn between his love for an emperor who does not trust him, and his respect for the people who should be his enemies, Radu longs for peace. As Lada and Radu soon learn, there is no peace to be had in the Ottoman Empire, especially for those drawn to its emperor. – ST
That’s all there was in our house: poetry and choir rehearsals and duets and so forth; I listened to Dad and Mother discuss things about poetry and delivery and voice and diction. I don’t think anyone could know how much it really means.

— Chuck Berry, 1926 – 2017